

themselves, Well, we don't see the jobs in that agenda. We do see the agenda in that agenda. We do see the politics in that agenda. In any event, I am pleased, as I said at the outset, that we do have a jobs bill that I think will have an impact coming to the floor this coming week, the patent reform bill, which I think is essential.

As it relates to the precluding of America's defaulting on the obligations it has incurred, I appreciate what the gentleman has to say, but, of course, the rating agencies, three agencies now, which have said we stand at risk of losing our AAA rating, which America has always had, does not distinguish between how we get to where we have a vote of approval on allowing America to pay its bills.

□ 1420

I, too, like the gentleman from Virginia, want to reach an agreement on the reduction of the deficit and the substantial reduction of the debt. The gentleman indicates he wants to cut spending by trillions. However, as we all know—and I've repeated—the gentleman voted for a rules package the first day of this session which provides for \$4.8 trillion in additional deficit without paying for it. That is the continuation of taxes while not cutting the spending by that amount.

You precluded our continuing to provide for statutory PAYGO applying to revenues as well as expenditures. Both obviously have an impact on the deficit that we incur. We incurred substantial expense during the Bush administration, as you know, some almost \$3.5 trillion of deficit spending, or \$2.5 trillion depending upon where you count some of the expenditures; but in any event, it's a minimum of \$2.5 trillion which we didn't pay for, and we therefore increased the debt by 86 percent in those 8 years of the Bush administration.

Both of us agree that we have to abandon policies of buying things without paying for them and of spending beyond our means. I would hope that we could join together in accomplishing that objective. Literally, we have less than 21 days of legislative time remaining before August 2, whether or not we can reach agreement, and I hope we can reach agreement. Surely, I would hope the gentleman would agree that allowing America to default on its bills is not an acceptable alternative even if we can't get to agreement. We want to get to agreement. I want to work with the gentleman to get to agreement, but allowing America to default on its bills should not be an option.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I will just underscore the sense that the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, says that the markets are watching. I believe that is the case. I also believe the markets are looking for us to enact real reforms, real spending reductions. So by just acting to increase the credit limit of this country without following

through on our commitment for spending cuts and reform is just checking the box and is reckless.

That's why I say to the gentleman it is important for us to come together, to walk together, to make sure that we are able to execute on a plan to reduce spending once and for all and to reform this system here in Washington so that the markets understand we mean what we say. It's time for us to make the tough decisions now and not to just stall and say we'll do it later. The people of this country have seen that over and over again, and they're tired of it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Tough decisions, however, are not to pretend there's a free lunch. What we buy, we need to pay for, and if we don't want to pay for it, we shouldn't buy it. Now, frankly, that didn't happen under each one of the budgets that we adopted from 2001 to 2008, the 2009 budget. It didn't happen. We spent far beyond that which we paid for in those budgets, and that took a \$5.6 trillion surplus projection to an almost 100 percent turnaround and an over \$10 trillion projected deficit.

I'll just say to the gentleman, I agree with you. We need to make the tough decisions. We may need to make the tough decisions on cutting spending. We need to make the tough decisions on paying for what we buy. Hopefully, we will have the courage and the wisdom on both sides of the aisle to do just that.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I hope we also have the courage and the wisdom to focus on what it is the people sent us here to do. They sent us here to focus on jobs and the economy. Yes, we take seriously our responsibility to get the fiscal house in order; but if the priority is about jobs, we know jobs don't come from government programs overall; they come from the private sector. Over half the people in this country work for small businesses. The number of small business startups in this country has been anemic of late. We've got to focus on that and ensure that we are responding to what people want. That is, they want more growth in this economy, and they want to get back to work. That should be our goal.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I agree with him.

What they need is confidence in the management at the Federal level of the finances of our Nation. They had that confidence in the nineties when we had balanced budgets. They did not have that confidence in the last decade, and our economy shows the result. I certainly share the gentleman's view that, if we can give them that confidence, our economy will grow, and jobs will be created. I'm for working together to accomplish that objective.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### RE&EE EXPO AND FORUM

(Mr. BARTLETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo and Forum going on until 4:30 p.m. in the Cannon Caucus room. The theme of this year's expo is "Efficiency + Renewables = Economic and National Security." There are 57 exhibitors, including the United States Air Force. They all have displays.

I encourage everyone to go and see the expo before you leave for the day.

In addition to the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucuses, we partnered in hosting with the Sustainable Energy Coalition and its sister caucuses: the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, the House Algae Energy Caucus, the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, the House High Performance Building Caucus, the Green Jobs Caucus, as well as the Congressional Peak Oil Caucus, and the Oil and National Security Caucus.

I want to give special thanks to my colleague from Maryland, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, who is the veteran co-chair of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, and Ken Bossong. This event would not have been possible without the efforts of Mr. Bossong and the Sustainable Energy Coalition.

Please go to the Cannon Caucus, and see the great exhibits there—57 exhibitors, including the United States Air Force.

#### HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SCOTT DAVIS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay a debt of gratitude to a life of service and sacrifice by one of Indiana's bravest.

Scott Davis of Muncie, Indiana, was a devoted husband, father and a firefighter. A former Yorktown fire chief, he'd been with the Muncie Fire Department since the 15th of June 2005.

Tragically, yesterday, Firefighter Scott Davis was killed while fighting a fire at the Tabernacle of Praise Church in Muncie, Indiana. He would become the first Muncie firefighter to give his life in the line of duty since 1955.

Those who knew Scott Davis were not surprised at the boldness and bravery that he displayed in the Tabernacle of Praise fire, where he fell. He bravely sacrificed his life protecting the community, and in so doing, Scott Davis will forever be remembered as a hero and as a servant leader. In the midst of this great tragedy, I honor Firefighter Scott Davis.

We should also take a moment to remember each and every man and woman who serve and volunteer full time in fire departments around this country. We should always remember

and be grateful for those who run in when others run out.

Today, we remember Scott Davis, a devoted husband to his wife, Raeanne, and a loving father of three—Jake, Emma and Max. From my family to yours, we offer our deepest condolences and those of the people of Muncie-Delaware County in the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana. The service and sacrifice of Scott Davis will never be forgotten.

□ 1430

#### CONGRATULATING TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK TEAMS ON THEIR THIRD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. FLORES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with another remarkable opportunity to recognize Texas A&M University.

This past Saturday, an unprecedented third straight national championship was won in track by both the men's and women's teams. The Aggie men and women track teams both ran the 1600-meter relays to give them their third consecutive national titles at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, Iowa. This makes the Aggie track program the first in collegiate history to win both men's and women's team titles in three consecutive outdoor seasons.

The amazing talent, depth, and teamwork displayed by these athletes helped the team overcome obstacles and a shaky start to finish strong with a phenomenal win.

I commend Coach Pat Henry for his outstanding leadership in guiding the Aggies to victory, and for becoming the only coach to accomplish a triple double of NCAA championships.

I also recognize Athletic Director Byrne for his second and third NCAA national championships at Texas A&M this year.

I am honored both as an alumnus and as a Member of Congress to represent such an accomplished and well-deserving university.

Congratulations and thank you to the hardworking men and women of the Aggie track teams, to Coach Henry, and to the loyal fans of Texas A&M University for making history.

Gig 'em, and great job.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, most Americans remember 1 year ago tomorrow President Obama and Vice President BIDEN launched what the White

House enthusiastically called the "recovery summer." This was supposed to be a 6-week-long push to highlight what the Obama administration said would be jobs created last summer by a surge in Federal stimulus spending across the country.

Senior Adviser to the President David Axelrod said, "This summer will be the most active Recovery Act season yet, with thousands of highly visible road, bridge, water, and other infrastructure projects breaking ground across the country, giving the American people a firsthand look at the Recovery Act in their own backyards and making it crystal clear what the cost would have been of doing nothing."

Yet, the only thing that is crystal clear to the majority of Americans is that there is nothing to show from the Democrats' failed economic policies that have set our country on a road to ruin.

Since President Obama has taken office he has done absolutely nothing to promote American energy production. He has done nothing to reduce the regulatory burdens on small business owners. He has done nothing to fix the Tax Code to help job creators. He has done nothing to increase competitiveness for American manufacturers. And he has done nothing to pay down America's unsustainable debt burden and bring back confidence among investors and entrepreneurs by supporting long-term American economic growth.

And now, President Obama is selling the sequel to last year's "recovery summer" sales pitch and kicking off this summer by trying to convince the American people that 28 consecutive months of unemployment above 8 percent is just a bump in the road to recovery. In addition, a number of Democrats are calling for billions more in taxpayer dollars to be spent on yet another wasteful stimulus to create jobs, but Americans aren't buying it.

Unemployment is nowhere near the 6.8 percent level at which the administration claimed it would be today if the stimulus was signed into law. When America's promise, prosperity, and security for future generations are at stake, this cannot be brushed off as just a bump in the road. It is a mountain of constraint put in place by a litany of failed Democrat policies and unfulfilled promises.

And what's worse is that President Obama recently laughed off the fact that his stimulus projects, which are costing taxpayers trillions of dollars, have failed to live up to their promise to create new jobs. Democrats promised this would be the summer of recovery, but their conflicting assessment of the economy and their double-talk has left American families wondering: Is this a joke?

Well, most economists and the American people are not laughing. Their concern is growing, and confidence in President Obama's economic policies is plunging more and more every day, and the idea of another stimulus bill is dead on arrival in the House.

In the face of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression, this administration and the Democrats in Congress are choosing to play politics with economic recovery and continue with another round of empty rhetoric and unfulfilled promises in their desperate sales pitch again this summer.

House Republicans are serious about creating real American jobs, and we're making it our mission to put Americans back to work. We know that what we need are commonsense policies that will create jobs in this country immediately. We cannot let this administration have another frivolous shot at the wasteful spending of taxpayer's hard-earned dollars, or be given more regulatory power or allowed to spin its way out of the catastrophic economy the Democrats have created with empty phrases like "recovery summer."

House Republicans have produced a pro-growth, pro-job creation budget, as well as a real plan for America's job creators. Both plans will put the Nation on a fiscally sustainable path to restore confidence, lower tax rates, and allow America to remain competitive in the global economy. We want to take the burden of regulation off of our job creators and produce more American energy so that Americans can start receiving the paychecks that they need and deserve. And we want to reduce the hostility of the Federal Government's regulators toward American business, both small and large.

We cannot allow this out-of-touch administration to continue with their failed experiments and silly punchlines. We cannot allow Washington Democrats to tax and spend away the futures of our children and our grandchildren. We cannot continue down the road to ruin, Mr. Speaker.

Coming from the private sector to Congress, I know that America can and will become prosperous beyond imagination and millions of new private sector jobs will be created if we would just get back to our founding free market principles and end big government and wasteful spending. It is time we take a different road this summer, Mr. Speaker. We cannot continue on the misguided and irresponsible path endorsed by the other side of the aisle of higher taxes, reckless spending, bigger government, explosive debt, crippling regulation, higher deficits, and unacceptably high unemployment.

Eighty-one percent of Americans know somebody without a job. As a matter of fact, if you'd look at the unemployment rate that includes underemployed and unemployed, almost one out of every five Americans is unemployed or underemployed today. Under President Obama's watch, almost 40,000 jobs have been lost every 2 weeks. President Obama's so-called stimulus was signed into law 28 months ago, and there are nearly 2 million fewer Americans with jobs today. They have had their chance to make things right last summer, and it has not worked. Now it is our turn.